

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 10, 12-17 and 21-24 are now pending. Claim 11 has been cancelled. Claims 10, 13, 16, 21 and 23 have been amended.

As an initial matter, claims 23 and 24 stand allowed.

In addition, claims 21 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome their rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In particular, claim 21 has been rejected for lacking antecedent basis with regard to the phrase “the liquid coolant/fuel mixture” in the last line of that claim. Applicants respectfully submit that the preamble of claim 21 recites “an anode feeder for delivering a liquid coolant/fuel mixture to the anode compartment”, and that subsequent reference to “the liquid coolant/fuel mixture” in the last line of claim 21 has proper antecedent support. Accordingly, Applicants kindly request that this ground of rejection be withdrawn, and that claims 21 and 22 constitute allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has objected to claim 16 for failing to further limit the subject matter of claim 10 with regard to “an anode offtake” (which element is already recited in claim 10). To obviate this ground of objection, Applicants have amended claim 16 by omitting reference to this element.

Claim 21 also stands objected to with regard to the phrase “adjusting at least one of a flow rate of the liquid coolant/fuel mixture, and pressure in said cathode compartment”. The Examiner has suggested that this phrase be amended by replacement of the word “and” with “or”. Applicants have now made the requested change to claim 21, as well as to claims 10 and 23 which recite a similar sentence structure.

Lastly, claims 11-14 and 17 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (*i.e.*, claim 10), but would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. To that end, Applicants have amended claim 10 by inclusion of the language from claim 11 (and cancelled claim 11 to avoid duplicative claim language). By this amendment, claim 10 is now allowable, as are claims 12-17 which depend directly or indirectly therefrom.

It should be understood, of course, that amendment of claim 10 in the manner noted above is not, nor should it be construed as, an acquiescence to the outstanding rejection.

Rather, Applicants merely wish to expedite allowance of the allowed claims, and reserve the right to continue prosecution of the cancel subject matter in one or more related continuation applications.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, allowance of claims 10, 12-17 and 21-24 is respectfully requested. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. However, should any further issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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